

Wilmington

District News

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April 2004



*The
Engineer
Yard*



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Page 4

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Inside This Issue

Ops Plan Update:	
How to Grow People	3
The Engineer Yard: Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind	4-5
District Security Chief	
Helps Establish GRD Security Measures	6
Life in Overdrive: Roger Bullock's Other Job	7
Snell Removes Vehicle From IAWW	8-9
Innovative Deputy Ops Chief Hopes to Patent Life Saver	10
Steve Carroll Awarded	
Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service	10
Operations Chief Makes Miraculous Recovery	11
Ten Local Schools Compete in	
15th Annual VA-NC Ecology Meet at Kerr Dam	12
Peggy Conner	13
Website Highlights	14
Reaching Out	15
Corps Family News	15
Retiree News	16

On the Cover:

Glenn Davis welds equipment at the Wilmington District Engineer Yard.

Commentary

Pile on to make P2 GO!

Glenn McIntosh says that it's a GOOD thing P2 will be deployed 7 June, a week earlier than expected. "We have a good chance of being loaded and ready by the time year-end closeout arrives," he explained.

P2, a commercial, off-the-shelf suite of programs designed to renovate all kinds of project-related data management, is a major change for the Corps. "P2 will become part of everything we do. We must succeed with this deployment in order to enter our data, climb the learning curve, and stay productive," McIntosh said.

Deployment will be preceded by several weeks of training. Those who will use Primavera software will receive four and a half days of training starting the 10th of May and the 17th of May. "After that, we'll run four PDT-Lite training sessions for those who will use PrimaVision. Those classes will happen between 24 May and 3 June. "

"If you are scheduled for a class, don't miss out! This is not optional training; it's essential to your ability to keep your work on track and on time," McIntosh emphasized.

Deployment will begin on 7 June, when a single project will be loaded into the system and all processes will be checked. Following the 10-day deployment period, all projects will be loaded into the system over the next 90 days. Loading should be completed and the system fully operational by mid-September.

"We know that's a very tight timeline," McIntosh said. "But our District is well-known for being able to pull off big tasks that seem 'impossible' to achieve. We aim to meet the mark."

Pile on with a good attitude and all your skills! Let's make P2 work for us!

Ops Plan Update:

How to Grow People

Submitted by B.J. Suggs

Growing people to ensure the District's future capabilities is the aim of this year's Operations Plan Objective 1.1 — Enhance Learning Organization. Accomplishing the objective is a significant undertaking and builds upon an effort begun in the FY03 Operations Plan. The Project Delivery Team, led by champion, Susan Dixon, is well on its way towards accomplishing this objective. A review of recent QSG minutes reveals the team has submitted for comment a draft plan to establish a District Leadership Development Program. Responses received have been positive, and the team will move forward to finalize and implement this plan. The plan is a two-tiered approach. The first tier is open to all SAW team members and involves primarily off-duty time spent by members committed to their own professional development. The second tier is a more

intense program open to approximately six to twelve team members per year. Details of the LDP program will become an addendum to the newly revised District Training Regulation.

The second element of Objective 1.1 addresses implementation of processes related to candidates for leadership training, mentoring and cross-training programs. More information on this "Bridge to Success" program is available on the District website. Identification of cross-training opportunities and team members desiring to participate is now underway. The initiative to

An ancient Chinese proverb advises:

If you want one year of prosperity, grow grain.

If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees.

If you want one hundred years of prosperity, grow people.

implement a structured mentoring program with published guidelines and information articles is scheduled for May 18th. Check out the information on the District's website and stay tuned for more information. Be a "growing" team member!



The Engineer Yard: Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind



Michael Shreckengost makes new channel depth markers inside a repair building.

Tucked away next to the southwestern side of the Wilmington Memorial Bridge and just a stone's throw from the U.S.S. North Carolina is a District facility that most people know exists, but don't know exactly what its function is.

The Engineer Yard is a multi-purpose compound. It's home to survey vessels like the *Gillette* which is currently without air conditioning, something the crew would like to get fixed before the sweltering summer months arrive. It's also home to top-notch mechanics and welders with years of experience. Near a small welding shop in the Engineer Yard are all types of objects ranging from saltwater-corroded pipes, damaged dragheads and other parts from District vessels or projects that are waiting to be repaired. The parts are neatly stacked with clear identification about which vessel or which project they belong to. Glenn Davis, a U.S. Navy-trained welder who began his career working on nuclear submarines at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire, says there's no shortage of work at the yard.

"Every day is busy. We've got more work here than one man can do."

Much of that work comes from normal wear and tear on such parts such as the heavily-used dragheads, one of the main devices on dredges.

"These items drag on the bottom, they suck sand through them and the abrasive sand wears out dragheads, drag pipes, and flex joints," says Davis. "It's just the nature of



The view of the Engineer Yard from the Wilmington Memorial Bridge.



Facilities Manager Ken Bailey runs a drill, one of the specialized machines in the main repair shop at the yard.



Glenn Davis cuts a pipe in his welding shop at the yard. Note the safety equipment in this and all the other photos.

the business. They're consumable parts and they wear out due to use."

Davis adds sometimes there are things that need to be fixed, but there aren't any instructions on how to fix them.

"You have to have experience, common sense, and a knack for working on vessels and ships. But mostly it's just experience."

And that experience is crucial, especially when making sure all vessels are in good shape for the upcoming hurricane season. If a hurricane hits Wilmington, the first vessel back on the Cape Fear River is a Corps of Engineers survey vessel. Facilities Manager Ken Bailey says pre-planning is key in making sure a vessel like the *Sanderson* is able to get back on the water to check the depth of channels.

"Once the hurricane season gets started, we'll run through everything

we need to keep the vessels in tip top shape. There's never been a problem so far."

Organization is what makes the Engineer Yard work smoothly and efficiently.



*The survey vessel **Gillette** makes its home at the Engineer Yard.*

District Security Chief Helps Establish GRD Security Measures

Billy Lee's track record in security-related matters is impressive.

He has more than 30 years of experience in physical security, law enforcement, investigating and force protection. This diverse background singled him out in the South Atlantic Division and Corps-wide as the first Chief of Security Law Enforcement for the Gulf Region Division. According to Lee, setting up security for the Corps in Baghdad meant long hours, sometimes up to 18 hours a day.

"My job was working with military intelligence to establish force protection," he explains. "I also helped develop and write plans for communications security and for storing and processing classified material."

One of Lee's more stringent missions was to develop a badge system for Corps employees at the GRD headquarters, a former palace of Saddam Hussein's that overlooks the Tigris River.

"When I developed the badge system, we also had to include contractors and other nationalities that had to have access within the Baghdad area because without a pass you didn't move. You didn't move at all."

Lee says that everyone had a duty to be alert at all times. Not knowing the good

guys from the bad guys made things very complex...and unnerving.

"Oh yes! We had several probes that were directed at the Corps. Through the Force Protection Agency we developed a boat patrol for the International



Billy Lee

Iraqi Police. There were people on the river that we knew were probing. They were posing as fishermen, but we never saw them catch a fish. For two or three months we watched them and had them under surveillance. So, we went ahead and took evasive action and curtailed that."

Lee says sporadic small arms fire also kept folks on their toes.

"Well, there were rockets at night, a few attacks, a few small arms fired from across the river. But I don't think they were aiming at the Army Corps of Engineers because in this area we had other government agencies. I think they were just lobbing probably rockets, two or three, and then they were gone before the radar could track them."

What made security tight within the secured area of Baghdad known as the "Green Zone" was constant communication. Lee had various points of contact from other government agencies on whom he relied and vice versa. This, he feels, led to reduced threats from suicide bombers and others trying to infiltrate the secured area.

"I worked daily with the checkpoints which, I believe, were the ones who had the most serious and important job over there; protecting the coalition forces. We had Marines, we had Navy, we had Coast Guard, we had Air Force, we had other countries over there, national security. We also worked with sister agencies like the State Department, FBI, CIA, Army Criminal Investigation Division. So, we kept a real close network of intelligence. I guess that's why nobody ever got hurt. We didn't have any casualties within the Green Zone."

Lee, a veteran of the Vietnam War and Gulf War, says what made things gel in his mission was a sense of camaraderie with military members in the intelligence community and by keeping in daily contact with USACE employees.

"You always have a friend in the Corps of Engineers. Somewhere, somebody has reached out and contacted you."

Lee says matter-of-factly that his past experiences were key in letting him focus on his job in Iraq. Although most of the time he was overwhelmed with numerous tasks and missions he says he'd do it all over again.

"I'd go back again if I were asked. It feels good to go someplace where you're needed, you do a product and you finish it. You do it until someone else comes in."

"You always have a friend in the Corps of Engineers. Somewhere, somebody has reached out and contacted you."



Snell Removes Vehicle From AIWW

The vehicle emerges as the Snell prepares to hoist it onto the deck of the debris vessel.



Snell captain Billy Cuthrell and MK1 Glenn Deer, U.S. Coast Guard, watch the activity from the cabin.

Story and Photos by Hank Heusinkveld

A small truck plunged off the swing bridge at Sunset Beach around 3 AM on April 27th. The accident closed the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway stranding pleasure boaters and hundreds of

people for more than 12 hours on the island side of Sunset Beach. The District got word of the accident and sent the debris removal vessel Snell from Carolina Beach to remove it from 17



These stranded people had no way to leave on the island side of Sunset Beach until the vehicle was removed.

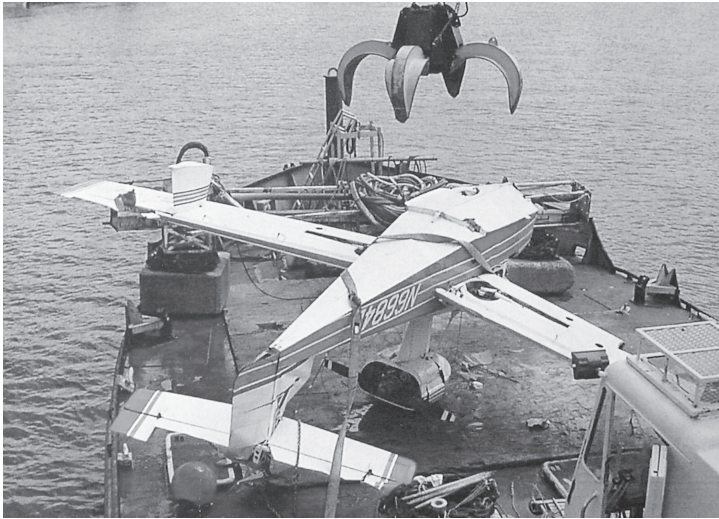
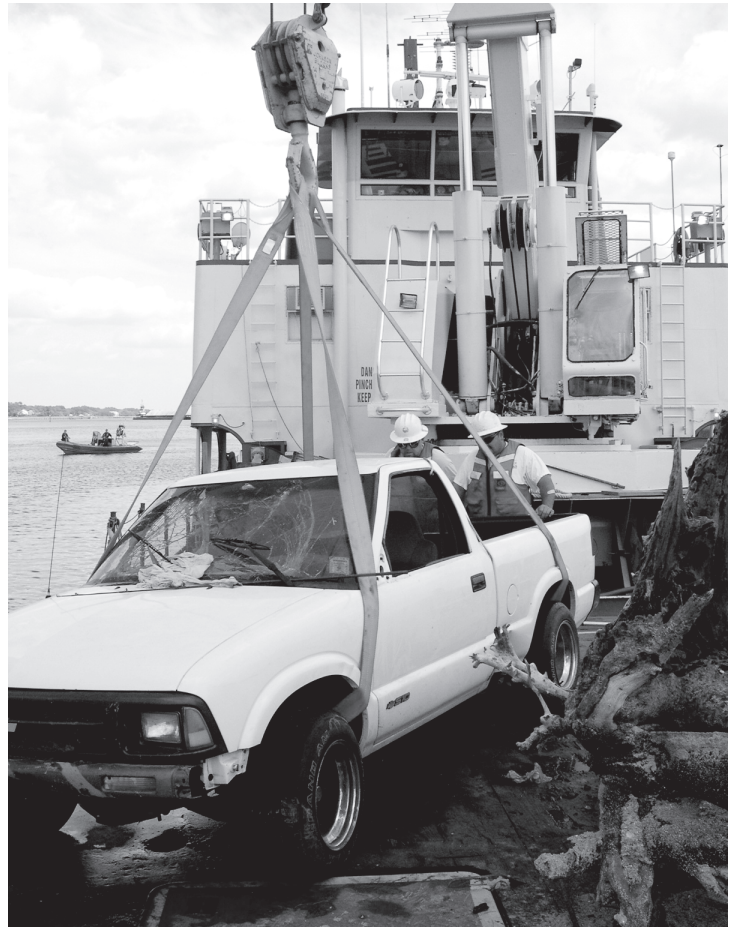


PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLY CUTHRELL

This single prop airplane was plucked from the AIWW by the Snell in 2002.

feet of water. Traveling at 8-10 knots the Snell reached the area in about four hours. When the Snell reached its destination the crew stood by as a diver surveyed the area for about 20 minutes. The diver then secured harnesses to the sunken vehicle and hooked them to the Snell's crane. Within half an hour or so the Snell had retrieved the vehicle and offloaded it to an awaiting tow truck on the bridge.

This is the second unique adventure for the Snell crew that has involved vehicles stopping traffic in the AIWW. In June of 2002 the Snell retrieved an airplane near the Coinjock Bridge in Currituck County.



Keith Fulcher and Robbie Page prepare to offload the vehicle from the deck of the Snell.



Crane operator Robbie Page lifts the vehicle to an awaiting tow truck on the Sunset Beach Bridge as Lester Gaugh helps to keep it from swaying.

Innovative Deputy Ops Chief Hopes to Patent Life Saver

Bob Sattin's goal is to save boater's lives. A boater who goes overboard at sea can be all too quickly left too far behind in the open ocean. Current devices depend on boaters' willingness to be inconvenienced, Sattin says, and are not effective.

"You have a lanyard switch attached to a pin that you're supposed to clip on to yourself to shut off a motor when you operate a boat. But most of the time people don't attach it to themselves because of inconvenience."

That's why he came up with an ingenious idea that could prevent deaths that don't have to happen. His Wireless Dead Man's Switch is now in the patent application process.

Sattin's gadget works by transmission. Once the remote wireless switch gets out of range of a transmitter it automatically shuts off the engine if someone falls overboard. He says that even if it gets wet the engine will still shut off because the signal isn't being transmitted.



Bob Sattin

And by sharing his concept with a co-inventing USACE engineer at the Engineer Research and Development Center he's setting other parameters.

"We're brainstorming on other areas such as how the device can monitor bodily functions such as heart rate or blood pressure."

Sattin says his idea was something he pondered for quite a long time.



Someday Corps boat operators like Scott Bertram may wear Bob Sattin's invention that could free them from the constraints of being attached to an engine kill switch.

"It's not like a 'Eureka!' thing. It's usually that there's a need for something. If there's something that needs to be done you figure it out. 'How can I do it?' It's thinking outside the box."

Sattin says there's still more work to be done to get his invention out of the concept stage toward a patent.

"We don't have a patent for it now, but it is available for licensing. So, if there's a company that's interested in doing this the government would license it."

Steve Carroll Awarded Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service

The Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves by meritorious direct "hands-on" participation in an act or operation of a humanitarian nature directly to an individual or groups of individuals.

Col. Alexander announced recently that Steve was the recipient of this award. The following statement was forwarded from Brigadier General Randall Castro in Steve's nomination.

"Mr. Steve Carroll, a Senior Employee in the Electrical Shop at the John H Kerr Powerhouse, is hereby commended for heroic actions. Mr. Carroll became a true hero on November

11, 2003. While repairing a home with a volunteer group he founded, "Volunteers for Christ", he was alerted to a nearby house on fire and ran to assist. When Mr. Carroll discovered that a child was inside the burning building, he braved the elements without regard to threat of personal injury from the intense heat and burning smoke. The Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service recognizes Mr. Carroll for performing an act of bravery in an attempt to save the life of a child. Mr. Carroll exemplifies the "Esprit de Corps" through his actions both on duty and off. It is because of his selfless and truly heroic act that he is presented the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Operations Chief Makes Miraculous Recovery

90 percent of people die when they contract a pneumococcal infection of the bloodstream, a bacterium that is the most common cause of bacterial pneumonia. Jim Butler, however, defied the odds and talked candidly about his near-fatal experience.

His ordeal began in late December when he was visiting his daughter in the D.C. area. He started feeling ill and felt the need to return to Wilmington. The next day he talked with his doctor who immediately checked him into the hospital.

"I didn't remember anything from the time I finally got admitted to the hospital," he says. "I spent the whole day in the emergency room waiting to be admitted. I really didn't remember anything and I've had to have my son and my friends reconstruct everything."

What little Butler does remember is having varying degrees of dreams.

"A lot of them had to do with my being confined by bad people, being unable to get away and use my hands. In actuality I was being constrained in the Intensive Care Unit because I was having a very bad tendency to rip tubes out and entice people to come closer to my bed where I could escape. In my mind I was somewhere I didn't want to be."

There were times he was just conscious enough to see shadowy figures that he knew he wasn't imagining. Eventually he said one of the shadowy shapes

would approach and ask him if he knew where he was. Sometimes he would try to signal them if he was thirsty.

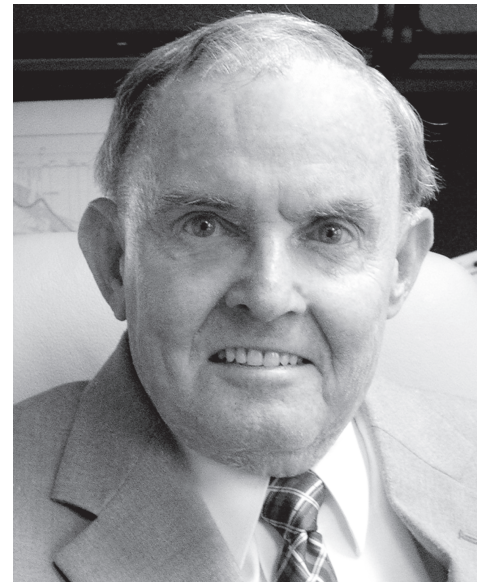
"Occasionally I knew there were people there. I knew that there were people telling me that I was okay and that everybody was praying for me."

And praying came more often in the Intensive Care Unit where Butler lay dying. His pastor was called in to administer last rites as his body struggled to keep going. His daughter drove immediately to Wilmington for a nerve wracking six-hour trip. Her husband was told to bring a suit toward impending funeral services.

"The closest I came to death, from what they tell me, is when my temperature went up to 107 degrees and my blood pressure dropped to 60 over 30. It dropped so low that they thought I'd had a brain hemorrhage, but they couldn't do a CAT scan because my blood pressure was too low. Eventually it came back up."

According to Jim, for whatever reason his body was fighting back. He vaguely remembers the difficulty of breathing and having his body immersed in ice to lower his core temperature.

"Your body works pretty much automatically. I wasn't willing anything. They took me off the ventilator when I started to breathe on my own. My kidneys had failed, but they started working again. Who knows? I was on a lot of medication."



Although his body was on autopilot, Butler feels something much greater was also aiding his recovery.

"I personally attribute it to a lot of prayers from a lot of people. It's the only thing I can attribute it to."

Like most people who've suffered from near-death experiences Butler sees things much differently now. He has a simple message for friends and colleagues.

"Enjoy every day. You just never know. I was a pretty healthy guy and I got hit with something I never expected. It came from who knows what and I came close to not being here. But I now have a deeper appreciation for being able to do things every day that make me feel good about myself, maybe make other people's lives better if possible. So, enjoy what you've got and don't take anything for granted."

Butler Retirement Luncheon Set for June 30th

Jim Butler ends his 38-years of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a luncheon at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside on Wednesday, June 30th at 11:30 A.M. Tickets must be purchased by Thursday, June 23rd. For more information contact Marilyn Knowlton at 251-4814 or Betsy Rogers at 251-4830.

Ten Local Schools Compete in 15th Annual VA-NC Ecology Meet at Kerr Dam

Halifax Middle School and Northern Vance High School Take Home Top Honors

By Sherrie Storm,
Park Ranger & Ecology Meet Coordinator
(Boydton, VA)

Earth Day 2004 was celebrated at Kerr Dam with ten middle and high schools competing for placement in the 15th Annual Virginia-North Carolina Ecology Meet, an all-day environmental education competition that focused on stewardship and knowledge of natural resources conservation.

Winning top honors for First Place Overall in the *Middle School Division* was **Halifax County (VA) Middle School** and in the *High School Division* the winning team came from **Northern Vance County (NC)**.

In each of the eight competition stations, trophies were awarded for First Place in the Middle and High School Divisions as well. The stations, sponsors and winners were:

STATION & SPONSOR

1ST PLACE - MIDDLE

HIGH SCHOOL

1-ENDANGERED SPECIES (NC State Parks)

Halifax

N. Vance

2-WILDLIFE (VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries)

Halifax

Bluestone

3-INTERPRETATION (VA State Parks @ Occoneechee

Bluestone

N. Vance

4-HERPETOLOGY (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Halifax

Randolph-Henry

5-AQUATICS (VA Coop Extension Service)

Bluestone/Halifax Tie

N. Vance

6-SOILS (NRCS & Soil & Water Districts)

Bluestone

N. Vance

7-HYDROLOGY (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Park View

N. Vance

8-FORESTRY (VA & NC Departments of Forestry)

Halifax

Halifax

Trophies were purchased with funds donated by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Halifax, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Virginia and Vance & Granville, North Carolina.

Quail Unlimited, Mecklenburg Sheriff's Office, Walmart of Henderson, and Flower's Bakery provided and cooked hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, bottled water, paper goods and condiments for a free picnic for the participating students, teachers, and station sponsors.



John H. Kerr Park Ranger Sherrie Storm, far left, poses with winners from this year's Eco Meet.

The 16th Annual 2005 Ecology Meet will move to Occoneechee State Park for 2 years, before rotating to Satterwhite Point Park on the NC side of Kerr Reservoir. The Ecology Meet Committee, which is comprised of eight natural resources management agencies surrounding John H. Kerr (Buggs Island) Reservoir is a "not-for-profit" agency, and hosts the Meet annually for students in middle and high schools in the counties surrounding Kerr Lake.

The teachers choose student teams of six early in the year, and study packets are collected from the station sponsors and sent out in February of each year. The Ecology Meet is held near to the time of Earth Day.

Students rotate throughout the day to eight different stations, designed to test their knowledge on environmental topics. The grueling academic challenge tests their skills in math, science, and geography as well as English and the arts when they are required to interpret a pre-designated environmental issue. Teams have only 20 minutes to complete the station questions.

The VA-NC Ecology Meet is a national award winning competition, and is the only one of its kind in the two-state area that allows students to compete outdoors academically across state lines. For more information, please go to <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/action.cfm/>, scroll down to "Expanding Learning Opportunities" and click on "Virginia-NC Ecology Meet".

Peggy Conner Retires...

With 31 Years, 8 Months of Service to the US Army Corps of Engineers



Peggy Connor receives her recognition from Colonel Ray Alexander.

By Sherrie Storm
(Boydton, VA)

Mrs. Peggy Hite Conner was honored at a private retirement ceremony at her home outside Kenbridge, Virginia on Thursday, March 26, 2004, after over 31 years of service to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Nation at John H. Kerr (Buggs Island) Reservoir.

Colonel Ray Alexander, Commander, USACE Wilmington District officiated. Present at the ceremony were her husband James F. Conner, also a Corps employee, her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanan of South Hill, and her mother Mrs. Gertrude Hite. Also present were Peggy's sisters Marjorie Coleman, Joyce McDaniel, and Trudy Bacon, brothers Haynie and Hughes Hite and sister-in-law Shirley Hite. Attending the ceremony from the Corps were Mr. Robert Sattin, Acting Chief of Operations Division, Wilmington District. Her son, Master Sergeant James F. Conner, Jr. is in the US Air Force in Albuquerque, New Mexico and could not attend.

COL Alexander presented Mrs. Conner with the *Commander's Award for Civilian Service*, a *Certificate of Appreciation*, a *Certificate of Retirement*, and a framed Corps flag flown on the Corps' dredge boats.

Mrs. Conner was recognized "for her outstanding career of 31 years 8 months of Federal Service with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District. During her tenure, Mrs. Conner served as a Clerk Typist and Field Office Assistant at the John H. Kerr Reservoir Project. Mrs. Conner's service is in keeping with the highest traditions of the US Army and reflects great credit upon herself, the Wilmington District and the US Army Corps of Engineers."

Conner began her career at John H. Kerr in 1973. Prior to that she worked during the summers at (then) Camp Pickett as a clerk-typist, and worked seven years at Farmer's Cooperative in Kenbridge, Virginia.

"I graduated high school on Friday night and started working on Monday morning," remembered Peggy. "When I started working out at Kerr Reservoir, I worked for Les Sutphin. He was the best," she said smiling.

The commute to Kerr Reservoir office from her home in Lunenburg County was no small task. Over her 31 years of work, she estimated she drove over 456,000 miles! That is enough miles to have driven around the circumference of the Earth 17 and half times!

"I cherish the memories of those I have worked with in the past," Peggy said. "I am especially grateful for my many

Wilmington District friends, my family, and my church family who have kept in touch with me and been so thoughtful during my battle with cancer. I was truly honored to have Colonel Alexander and Bob Sattin to come up from Wilmington to thank me for my years of service. It was especially meaningful to me since they both lost their wives to cancer several years ago."

Peggy is a life-long resident of Lunenburg County. She is the daughter of the late Haynie Maben Hite of Kenbridge. She and Jimmy have been married forty years. In addition to their son and daughter, they are the proud grandparents of three grandsons, Jordan, 13, James Michael, 9 and Christopher, 18 months.

Peggy is a member of Antioch United Methodist Church. She has served as Superintendent of the Sunday school, and as a teacher. She is also the past-President of the United Methodist Women.

In addition to her church work, Peggy has been active in the Mecklenburg Relay for Life as one of "Kitty's Angels for a Cure", participating in walk-a-thons, serving as a fashion model, and as a fund raiser.

Editor's Note: Peggy Conner passed away on May 5, 2004. She will be greatly missed by us all.



Peggy, in plaid dress, with the staff of John H. Kerr in 1975.



This month's column reviews sites on protecting our e-selves by being aware of ATM and Phish scams, plus two sites (admittedly from opposite ends of the spectrum) on old electronics – one that is amusing to browse and the other addressing environmentally sound recycling. Rounding out the list are sites devoted to USGS's Suspended Sediment database and The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Our One For Fun invites you to check out your shoelaces!

University of Texas at Austin Police Department: ATM Theft <http://www.utexas.edu/admin/utpd/atm.html>

The University of Texas at Austin Police Department has posted this website with information about a new approach to ATM theft. The website alerts the public to a technology that criminals have been able to install on legitimate bank ATMs that lets them receive information on customers' ATM number and PIN through wireless transmission. Photos of the technology are posted so customers can be on the lookout for the attachment and hidden camera.

Database of Phishing Scams Available <http://www.antiphishing.org/>

Phishing scams are when you get e-mails from alleged legitimate institutions (banks, eBay, etc) saying that your account has been compromised or you've been charged a zillion dollars or whatever. You then visit the site, which is actually fake, fill out your personal information, and you're outta luck. To get a sense of how many different ones are going on, you can visit this database and information site to view phishing examples divided by date, company (company being faked, that is), and title of the phish.

Vintage Calculators Web Museum <http://www.vintagecalculators.com/>

This "web museum" devoted to vintage calculators shows "the evolution from mechanical calculator to hand held electronic calculator." Some items featured include: Mechanical and early electronic desk calculators, "strange hand-held calculators," and articles, photographs, and databases from the archives of the International Association of Calculator Collectors. The FAQ page gives answers to such burning questions as "Why do calculator keypads have the numbers in a different order to telephone keypads?"

Don't forget to forward any websites you find in your work that others would be interested in seeing. We'll review them and post them here for everyone's benefit. Happy surfing!

Electronics Recycling Programs Around the Country <http://www.eiae.org/>

And on a different note concerning old electronics, including calculators, the Electronic Industries Alliance Consumer Education Initiative lists a directory of places around the US where you may recycle electronics. A US map allows you to choose which state and you may also view national programs. Clicking on the program title will give you additional information including hours, address, and notes about what is and isn't accepted.

National NAGPRA <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/INDEX.HTM>

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a Federal law passed in 1990 that provides a process by which museums and Federal agencies (such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) to return certain Native American cultural items, including human remains and sacred objects, to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. As this is a complicated process at best, the National NAGPRA program has created this website in order to assist a number of stakeholders (such as museums, Native American groups, and Federal agencies) in this process. Take a look through the law and regulations area (which includes a full-text version of the act and its various amendments), and their online databases that include contact information for various Indian tribes, items still to be repatriated, and a database of successfully repatriated items.

USGS Suspended-Sediment Database <http://co.water.usgs.gov/sediment/>

This USGS website provides daily and periodic sediment data mainly for hydrologists and geomorphologists. The database includes station metadata, drainage basin area, geographic parameters, data anomalies, streamflow discharge, suspended-sediment discharge, and more. Users can find maps of average concentration of suspended sediment and of the many gaging stations located all around the United States.

One For Fun!

Ian's Shoelace Site <http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/index.htm>

Remember learning to tie your shoelaces? Ian Fieggen's site takes a love of shoelaces to a new level. On this site visitors will find out about hundreds of ways to tie shoelaces, ranging from the Surgeon's Knot to the Ian Knot, which is claimed to be the "World's Fastest Shoelace Knot." Nice illustrations, explicit instructions, and the best use for each knot (such as hiking and so on) are included for each. An FAQ section answers just about any question about the art of the shoelace. The site is rounded out by a good section on repairing aglets, which are those little plastic thingys at the ends of shoelaces.

Reaching Out

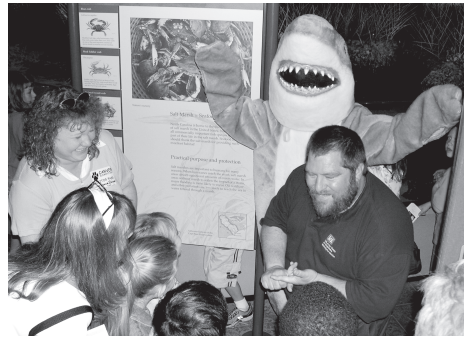
David Deemer, Shannon Maness and Sherrie Storm, Park Rangers at Kerr, presented water safety talks to 600 kids in Henderson, NC and Boynton, VA.

Team Kerr held a "Silent Dessert Auction" to raise money for the recreation committee. A peach pie by **Dianne Edwardson** fetched the highest price (\$21.50), and in all \$84.50 was raised. The funds are used for team building activities and for flowers and gifts for sick and retiring employees.

Kevin McDaniels and **Dianne Edwardson** met with Vance Co, NC Sheriff Breedlove to develop partnership with law enforcement on NC side of lake for visitor assistance on the water and along the shoreline.

Dave Deemer, Joyce Taylor, and Sherrie Storm presented an all day "3 ring" program for 75 first graders from South Hill VA at the Tanner Center.

On 21 April 2004, **Terry Brown, Nate Kirtley, Penny Schmitt** and **Daniel Emerson** held a quarterly Roanoke River Basin stakeholders meeting at the John H Kerr's visitor's center. The agenda included; SE River Forecast Center's input into the region's present trend towards drought conditions; John H Kerr's status



Chuck Wilson, left, explains the importance of oysters in an ecosystem to school kids during Earth Day festivities at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. **Liz Vallery**, right, talks with a visitor during Earth Day activities at Hugh McCrae Park.



(past and future lake elevations); Hydrologic's (contractor) RRBROM model using historical weather data to predict the future weather conditions and its impact on Kerr; how the Corps determines flood damages prevented after a flood event; Smith Mountain Lake Association modeling a more beneficial release plan from Leesville hydropower plant in times of drought.

These meetings open dialogue for concerns on the operation of John H Kerr and Dominion's hydropower plant during drought and flood operations. The attendance has grown with the looming drought forecast and its potential impact upstream and downstream of John H Kerr Dam and Reservoir.

Rosemary Cohen spoke at the Economic and Environmental Conference in Baltimore this past Wednesday. The topic was Post Isabel Insights.

Kevin McDaniels and **Michael Womack**, Rangers at Kerr Reservoir, spoke to 50 members of the "Outdoor Writers Association" in Clarksville, VA on Kerr and the Corps mission.

Justin Elmore, Park Ranger at J H Kerr, spoke to 25 members of the Townsville Lions Club on park and shoreline management.

David Deemer, Park Ranger at Kerr, set up and manned a water safety exhibit at the Boynton Head Start Fair for 60 children.

Corps Family News

Kim Carroll, daughter of **Rick Carroll**, Kerr Powerhouse won "Miss Congeniality" in the 'Miss South Hill, VA Junior Women's Club Scholarship Pageant' for 2004. Rick's older daughter, Christie also won Miss Congeniality in 1997, as well as taking home the pageant crown.

Jennifer Dedad, daughter of **Kevin Dedad**, Kerr Powerhouse was also one of the contestants in the pageant.

Sherrie Storm was elected as Director, Meherrin River District PTA, for a two-year term. She will be responsible for supporting all K-12 PTA organizations in three counties in Southside VA. She will continue to serve as President of the Park View High School PTA, and as a member of the Mecklenburg County School's Key Communicators.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke's tennis team announced the signing of a National Letter of Intent by Jessica Figgins, daughter of **Sheila Figgins**, for the upcoming 2004-05 season. Figgins is a product of E.A. Laney High School in Wilmington, NC. During her high school career, she was named to the All-Conference team all four years. An MVP for her final three seasons, Figgins was also garnered the Rookie of the Year title her freshman year.

Wesley Storm, son of Kerr Park Ranger **Sherrie Storm**, was recognized by Mecklenburg County School Board for scoring a perfect 600 on the VA Standards of Learning (SOL) exam.



Carl Smalley shows daughters Megan, left, and Paige a little bit about his job during Bring Your Child to Work Day. Both girls attend North Topsail Elementary School.

Corps Family News (cont.)



Col. Ray Alexander enlisted his son Ryan who is a Private First Class in the Virginia Army National Guard at the Richmond, VA Military Entrance Processing Station last month. He is in the Simultaneous Membership Program with Army ROTC at VMI. Ryan is assigned to and will drill with the 29th Infantry Division (Light), Detachment 1, A Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment. He will start One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Benning, GA on 24 May and should graduate as an Infantryman on 27 August, just in time for classes to resume at VMI 29 August. Upon graduation from OSUT and signing a contract to pursue a commission as an officer following graduation from VMI, Ryan should be promoted to Sergeant in August.

— Retiree News —

Submitted by Bob Swart

Attendees: Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Bettye and Bob Swart, Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Augustus B. Moore, Doris and Ken Old, Paul Woodbury, Lawrence Crawley, Joe Lewis, Eric Matzke.

Activities: Once again Joe Lewis successfully negotiated his way across town to be with us. It was a little surprise with this being that time of year again. Joe indicated that he had the taxes under control. He did bring a copy of an article from the Island Gazette, local newspaper, expounding on his good works for the Carolina Beach community. It started out by describing a generous Joe Lewis, which kind of caught us off guard. Putting all kidding aside, all were pleased that Joe had received the recognition as the "Citizen of the Quarter" for his generous spirit. Jean and Dan Grimsley recently visited their daughter, Amy, in Ft Lauderdale, FL. Eric Matzke will be making another journey to York, PA for a train show during the period 14-17 April. Paul Woodbwerrey broke out his book on the proper use of the English language, indicating that if anyone was having trouble sleeping, this book was the ideal treatment to eliminate the problem. Bettye and Bob Swart had a very enjoyable few days at the Minister's Retreat at Calabash, NC, residing in a fine new home with five bedrooms and a bathroom with each bedroom.

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